

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

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TAGS: TGEN, IS

SUBJECT: U.S.-ISRAEL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
FUND (ARD)

1. MEETING OF USDA AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES WAS HELD
JANUARY 6 TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
ARD FUND. TREASURY REPRESENTATIVE WAS UNABLE TO BE PRESENT,
BUT IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT A BUDGETARY REQUEST FOR THE \$40
MILLION U.S. CONTRIBUTION WILL BE INCLUDED AS A PART OF THE
FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT PORTION OF THE FY 79
BUDGET. BOTH CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE OCTOBER 1,
1978.

2. ISRAELI EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN WASHINGTON HAVE INFORMED
USDA THAT GOI ENVISAGES AN IMPLEMENTING MECHANISM FOR THE
ARD CONSISTING OF A JOINT SIX-MAN POLICY COMMITTEE, A JOINT
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EIGHT-MAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS, AND AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER.
THE THREE MEMBERS ON THE POLICY COMMITTEE ON THE ISRAELI
SIDE WOULD BE THE DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF FINANCE AND AGRICUL-
TURE PLUS THE CHIEF SCIENTIST OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.
ISRAELI REPRESENTATION ON THE EXPERTS COMMITTEE MIGHT CON-
SIST OF THE DEANS OF THE FACULTIES OF AGRICULTURE OF HEBREW
AND HAIFA UNIVERSITIES, THE DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION IN THE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
CHIEF SCIENTIST. REFERRING TO BIRD DIFFICULTIES, THEY
SUGGEST AN ISRAELI FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TO BE PAID AT
ISRAELI RATES.

3. USDA INTENDS TO USE ITS ROME OFFICE TO MAINTAIN
LIAISON WITH THE ARD. STATE AND TREASURY CONTINUING
RELATIONSHIP WITH ARD IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS TIME. STATE
MIGHT ACCEPT ONE OF THREE PLACES ON POLICY COMMITTEE BUT
WOULD PREFER THAT THIS BE AT LESS THAN ASSISTANT SEC-
RETARY LEVEL. PERHAPS, TOO, A CONTINUING CONNECTION CAN
BE MAINTAINED BY OTHER MEANS.

4. CHIEF SCIENTIST OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IS REPORT-
ED TO BE VERY EAGER TO MOVE AHEAD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE
AND WOULD LIKE FIRST PROJECTS UNDER THE ARD SIGNED AND
OPERATING BY JANUARY 1, 1979. TO DO THIS, HE WANTS
PROPOSAL GUIDELINES FINALIZED BY JUNE AND FIRST PROPOSALS
SUBMITTED BY SEPTEMBER, 1978. WE DOUBT THIS CAN BE
DONE BEFORE FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO HIRE STAFF AND PREPARE
GUIDELINES. WE URGE EMBASSY TO CAUTION ISRAELIS AGAINST
UNDUE HASTE AND ALSO TO DEVELOP ITS PROPOSAL FOR AN
IMPLEMENTING MECHANISM THAT IS NO MORE STRUCTURED
THAN NECESSARY. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE CHIEF SCIENTIST HOPES TO HAVE THIS PRO-
POSAL FOR AN ARD STRUCTURE READY FOR CONSIDERATION OF
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APPROPRIATE AMERICANS WHO WILL BE GOING TO ISRAEL FOR
MEETINGS OF THE BOARDS OF GOVERNORS OF THE BSF AND THE
BIRD IN MID-FEBRUARY. CHRISTOPHER

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